

German Shepherd Guards Museum In Los Angeles

By JOHN POWER
Los Angeles - (AP) - Mark, a highly cultured canine with a yen for art as well as cats and would-be thieves, is celebrating the first anniversary of his job as a museum guard-ship pooch.

Mark, a three-year-old German shepherd who rests during off-duty hours in a 12 by 7 foot kennel adjacent to the Los Angeles County Museum, has taken the past year in stride, reflecting the praise showered on him by museum officials.

For Mark is no run-of-the-mill guard dog.

Successful

"Extremely successful" was the term used by Leland T. Pellant, the museum's chief security officer, when describing the progress made by the first four-footed security officer to pound a beat in an American museum.

"We now consider him a full-fledged member of the force and the guards feel safer with Mark than another security officer," said Pellant.

At present, the sleek black and tan dog is trained to work with four male handlers but shortly will work with Mrs. Dixie Allen, the museum's only female security officer.

Dixie also is another first, according to museum officials.

"Other museums have female guides but we are the only museum staff to have a female security officer," said Pellant.

Why a female guard? The museum attracts about 1.5 million visitors a year and, according to Pellant, about 60 per cent of them are women and children.

"We want Dixie, who works during visitors' hours, to be able to work with Mark should any emergency arise," said Pellant.

Mark now works at night when the museum is closed.

He makes the rounds with a fellow security officer on a leash.

Given Credit

Pellant credits Mark with two major accomplishments during his first year at the museum.

Although not on public view during daylight hours, the fact that a trained guard dog is in the vicinity has cut down on the petty larceny that exists in any public building. And he has made the museum an un- "lily" place for visiting cats which plagued the area before his arrival.

The plan to use a dog as part of the museum's security staff was the result of an increasing number of art thefts in this country and Europe during the past few years.

Officials felt that the museum, which has 203,600 square feet of space for exhibition halls, galleries and public areas as well as 83,000 square feet behind the scenes, could provide a place for a potential thief to hide until the museum closed and then steal or damage.

Siskiyou Student Award To Be Given

Ashland - Fred Heard, Klamath Falls, editor of the Southern Oregon college newspaper "The Siskiyou," has announced that the Siskiyou annual student award dinner will be held in the Mark Antony hotel, Ashland during the spring quarter. This has been planned as an annual event.

To obtain the award those selected must have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following fields: clubs, student government, or publications. The recipient must be a senior or a graduate student.

The Siskiyou Award Faculty Selection committee is composed of Dr. Clarence Diebel, Dr. Alvin Fellers, Dr. Marshall Woodell, Dr. Richard Byrns, Douglas Legg, and Hugh Simpson, chairman.

White Water Parade Attracts About 20,000

Eugene - (AP) - An estimated 20,000 persons watched the 25th annual White Water Boat Parade on the McKenzie River Sunday.

Some 300 boats ran the rapids 20 miles from Redside to the Leaburg Reservoir.

A spokesman for McKenzie river guides said there were plenty of dunkings but no serious injuries were reported.

The Turkey Awakens

West in Venezuela To Investigate Junket Hardships of Congressmen

By DICK WEST
Caracas, Venezuela - (AP) - Marcos Perez Jimenez, Venezuela's unrocked dictator, may not have been everyone's idea of a model statesman, but I will say one thing for him. He knew how to think big. Shortly before his constituents decided it was time for a change, Perez Jimenez erected near this city two of the world's



most spectacular hotels, five or take the wagon yard at Merkel, Texas, my old hometown. One hotel - the Humboldt - he built on a mountain-top and the other - the Macuto - he built by the sea.

They were architectural triumphs and had everything that a luxury resort needs with one minor exception. The missing element was paying customers.

In order to reach the Humboldt, a guest had to ride a cable car up the mountain-side, scale a precipice that would intimidate Sir Edmund Hillary, or bring his own helicopter.

These were conditions that the average tourist was unwilling to meet, and the Humboldt, after catering for a time to empty rooms, had to close. This was more than could be said for the Macuto which was completed in 1958 at a cost estimated from \$30 million to \$45 million and then didn't open at all.

Last year, in an effort to bring the turkey to life, the Venezuelans made a deal with a U.S. hotel chain, the Sheraton Corp., to take over the management of the Macuto,

and this week, it is having its formal opening, or reincarnation, as the Macuto-Sheraton.

To commemorate the event, the Sheratons have imported several paneloads of Yankee celebrities and run-of-the-mill freeloaders, which explains the presence here of y'r h'mbl' c'r'r's'nd'nt.

I came down from Washington, D.C., to investigate conditions that members of the U. S. Congress must endure when they go on overseas junkets. Venezuela is a popular stopping place for congressional travelers and presumably some will be staying at this hotel in the future.

In a sense, a hotel opening is like the shakedown cruise of a new ship. Those of us now installed in the Macuto - Sheraton provide the management with a chance to break in the staff and work out any bugs in the service before the paying guests arrive.

To that extent we are pioneers and we feel a kinship with Christopher Columbus who sailed up Venezuela's Orinoco river on his third voyage to the Americas.

We are clearing a path, so to speak.

Pioneering, of course, brings certain privations. Just this morning I heard Rod Serling of television's "Twilight Zone" say that the lobster thermidor he ordered Thursday night was cold when it reached his table.

But Serling displayed the stiff upper lip that is typical of our group. Standing on the banks of one of the hotel's four swimming pools he waded toward the mountain and the sea and said "it takes such a little bit to make a man happy."

To that I can only add "bravo."

Sherwood Man Killed By Accidental Gunshot Hillsboro - (AP) - Eugene Reed, 30, Sherwood, was accidentally shot and killed Saturday, sheriff's officers reported. Deputies said he apparently was trying to eject a shell from a .22 caliber rifle when the gun discharged. The bullet entered his chest and he was dead on arrival at a local hospital.

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